

1964

## CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

1039

expected to drive there in their automobiles and to transport all of their household goods and personal effects.

The basic purpose is to make recruitment and transfer of qualified employees of the Federal service a little easier, and to remove what appear to be inequities in the conditions of employment of those assigned to the State of Alaska. Most Federal workers in Alaska are recruited from among the citizens of that State, but a goodly number must still be sent from the other United States.

#### AMENDMENT OF FEDERAL PROPERTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ACT OF 1949

Mr. HUMPHREY. Mr. President, I move that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 803, House bill 4801.

The motion was agreed to; and the bill (H.R. 4801) to amend subsection 506(d) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, regarding certification of facts based upon transferred records was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

Mr. HUMPHREY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an excerpt from the report (No. 828), explaining the purposes of the bill.

There being no objection, the excerpt was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

##### PURPOSE

This bill would amend section 506(d) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, by granting authority to certain Government officials to authorize the Administrator of General Services to certify to facts and make administrative determinations on the basis of information contained in records transferred from their agencies to the General Services Administration.

Under existing authority of law (44 U.S.C. 396) any official of the Government who is authorized to certify to facts on the basis of records in his custody is permitted to continue to certify on the basis of records which he or his predecessor has transferred to the General Services Administration. H.R. 4801 would amend this section of the law so that the Administrator of General Services would be authorized by the agency concerned to certify as to facts and make administrative determinations from the records in his custody.

The Administrator of General Services would be authorized to delegate and authorize redelegation of such authority under the provisions of subsection 205(d) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949.

##### BACKGROUND

The following explanation and justification for enactment of this bill has been transmitted to the President of the Senate and referred to the committee by letter dated March 4, 1963, from the Administrator of General Services:

"Since the establishment of Federal records centers, large quantities of Federal records have been transferred to these centers. Federal records centers are established and maintained by General Services Administration under statutory authority (64 Stat. 583; 44 U.S.C. 395). These centers now hold over one-third of all Federal records. The volume of requests for certifications has increased correspondingly with the growth of the Federal records centers. Approximately 3 million inquiries regarding records in the custody of the Administrator of General

Services are received at the Federal records centers annually. As a consequence, GSA has found it necessary to staff the centers with competent and professionally trained personnel, who have developed a knowledge and sense of responsibility comparable to that of the personnel of the agencies which created the records. In many instances, GSA personnel at the records centers may be more familiar with the records than currently employed personnel of the record-creating agency, since records center personnel are continuously servicing these records.

"The present method of processing requests for certification provides that records center personnel conduct a search for the records, prepare the legal certification for signature, and transmit the documentation to the designated official in the record-creating agency for signature. This procedure is obviously time consuming and cumbersome. The proposed legislation would permit the record-creating agency to delegate the certifying authority to the Administrator of General Services in those instances where it appears that such action is in the best interest of the United States. Enactment of the legislation would in most cases relieve Federal agencies of a routine and perfunctory function and would eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort.

"As a matter of practice Federal records center personnel are the only individuals who have the necessary certifying knowledge with regard to facts contained in records of defunct agencies which have been transferred to the Federal records centers.

"The enactment of the proposed legislation would not require the expenditures of additional Federal funds. In fact, it would reduce duplication of effort and its enactment should result in economies."

Dr. Wayne C. Grover, Archivist of the United States, recommended enactment of this bill and testified before the House Committee on Government Operations as follows:

"In essence this legislation would permit agencies, if they wished, to delegate certification signing to GSA in addition to certification preparation.

"An example of this is found in 10 U.S.C. 3693 and 3693 in which the Congress has directed the Secretaries of the two Departments of the Armed Forces—Air Force and Army—to issue to veterans under certain conditions certificates of discharge in lieu of lost or destroyed certificates. Only the Secretary under the existing law, or his delegatee in the Department, can sign these at the present time. Our staff in the Military Personnel Records Center at St. Louis prepares between 75,000 and 90,000 of these certificates every year and forwards them to the appropriate service where they are signed by the Secretary's delegatee and dispatched. We believe this is not only a waste of the time of the officer who has to sign them, but it delays the dispatch of the certificate to the veteran.

"In cases like these, a delegation of authority to GSA from the agency that transferred the records would enable us to give service more promptly and economically than is now possible. In every case, of course, the transferring agency will have the final say as to what types of certifications and determinations it wishes to delegate. But we believe these agencies will be as willing as we are to eliminate unnecessary delays and paper shuffling as we are."

Dr. Grover also suggested that delegation of this authority would be at the discretion of the officials having the original custody of the records, and would not alter the legal efficiency of the certifications or administrative determinations as otherwise provided for by statute.

Enactment of an identical bill, S. 1234, introduced in the Senate at the request of the Administrator of General Services, was

recommended by the Bureau of the Budget, Department of the Navy for the Department of Defense, and the sponsoring agency.

#### AUTHORIZATION FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO PROVIDE CERTAIN SERVICES TO OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HUMPHREY. Mr. President, I move that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 804, Senate bill 1833.

The motion was agreed to; and the bill (S. 1833) to authorize Government agencies to provide quarters, household furniture and equipment, utilities, subsistence, and laundry service to civilian officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes, was considered, ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed, as follows:

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the head of each department, independent establishment, and Government corporation may, under such regulation as the President may prescribe and where conditions of employment or availability of quarters warrant it, provide, either directly or by contract, civilian officers and employees stationed in the United States, its territories and possessions, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, with quarters (Government owned or leased), household furniture and equipment, utilities, subsistence, and laundry service.

Sec. 2. Rental rates for any Government owned or leased quarters provided under authority of section 1 of this Act, or occupied on a rental basis under authority of any other provision of law, and charges for any furniture and equipment, utilities, subsistence, and laundry service made available in connection with the occupancy of such quarters, shall be based on the reasonable value thereof to the officer, employee, or member of the uniformed services concerned, in the circumstances under which furnished. Such rates and charges shall be determined in accordance with such regulations as the President may prescribe, and the amounts thereof shall be paid by or deducted from the salary of such officer, employee, or member of the uniformed services, or otherwise charged against them: *Provided*, That the amounts of any payroll deductions for such charges shall remain in the applicable appropriation or fund, but whenever payments are made by any other method the amounts shall be credited to miscellaneous receipts of the Treasury or to such appropriation or fund as may be otherwise provided by law.

Sec. 3. Whenever, as an incidental service in support of a Government program, any Government owned or leased quarters, and any related furniture and equipment, utilities, subsistence, and laundry service are provided, under specific Government direction, to any person who is not an officer or employee of the Government or a member of the uniformed services, the rates and charges therefor, which shall be paid or otherwise credited to the Government, shall be determined in accordance with section 2 of this Act: *Provided*, That the amounts of any such charges shall be credited to miscellaneous receipts of the Treasury or to such appropriation or fund as may be otherwise provided by law.

Sec. 4. No civilian officer, employee, or member of the uniformed services shall be required to occupy Government owned or leased rental quarters unless the head of the agency concerned shall determine that neces-